

HIDDEN SHAPES PROVIDE A KEY TO THE FUTURE

New Book by Emmy Award-Winner Reframes Human History Through the Lens of Shape

How can we make sense of the world?

To this timeless question, Emmy-award winning TV producer and documentary filmmaker Lois Farfel Stark, responds, quite simply:

Shape.

In her new book, *The Telling Image: Shapes of Changing Times* (Greenleaf, Feb. 2018), Stark unveils a stunning synthesis of her experience filming in Africa, the Middle East, Europe, and Cuba as a producer and writer for NBC Network News. As Stark explains, to think out of the box, you have to know the box you are in.

Illustrated with a series of captivating photos, including originals by Stark, *The Telling Image* takes readers on a remarkable journey through time and place, from tribal ceremonies in Liberia and the pyramids of Egypt to Dubai and China -- where a hotel built in the shape of an upright ring upends all expectations.

In *The Telling Image* Stark urges the reader to re-envision history not as a story of kings and wars but through the lens of shape. She reveals how the shape of shelters, sacred sites and social systems reflect our frame of mind. Round thatched huts and labyrinths show us that migratory humans saw the world as a *web*. Church steeples and skyscrapers show us that urban humans viewed the world as a *ladder*.

"Nature does not change. Only the map in our mind changes," Stark notes. Even the digital world holds a hidden shape. The *network* is the map we impose on everything. It is not just technology that develops. The very way we think shifts.

In every era, humans search for pattern and meaning. We carry the shapes of our past with us as we continue to evolve. *The Telling Image* offers insights into how we might begin to shape our shared future. Stark's beautifully illustrated book asks of all its readers: *See what you think.*

Praise for *The Telling Image*:

“Lois Stark leads us into fascinating territory. She tells of cultural history, not so much through the medium of accrued documents as through the medium of accrued images.... This book will be a lot of fun. It will start conversations. It will delight both the eye and the mind.”

--John H. Lienhard, commentator for National Public Radio, Author of: *Engines of Our Ingenuity, Inventing Modern*,

“A wonderfully imaginative thinker, and insightful artist who takes the particular and makes it universal. Stark creates an arc of ideas through time and explores how ancient images and stories, and key metaphors can be linked to contemporary life. She is an inspiring guide, who discerns patterns and tells a compelling human story.”

--Edward Hirsch, President, John Simon Guggenheim Memorial Foundation, Author of: *Wild Gratitude, Earthly Measure, For The Sleepwalkers*, and many others

“This book should offer a new and interesting approach to contemporary cultures and their global and historic analogues.”

--Jane Chance, Rice University Professor

About the Author:

Lois Farfel Stark is an Emmy Award-winning producer, documentary filmmaker and author of the book *The Telling Image: Shapes of Changing Times* (Greenleaf, 2017). The book was the focus of her September 2016 TEDx talk in Dallas. During her distinguished career with NBC News, she covered Abu Dhabi's catapult to the 20th century, the British withdrawal from the Persian Gulf, Cuba ten years after their revolution, the Israeli Air Force in the Six Day War, Northern Ireland during its time of religious conflict, and Liberia's social split. Independently, she produced and wrote documentaries on architecture, medical research, globalization, artists, and social issues.

Along with an Emmy, Lois is also the recipient of two CINE Gold awards, two Gold Awards from The International Film Festival of the Americas, the Matrix Award from Women In Communications, the American Bar Association Silver Gavel Award, and the Silver Award from the Texas Broadcasting Association. She has served as a trustee for institutions in education, health, the arts, and public service, including Sarah Lawrence College, her alma mater. She lives in Houston.

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Author: Lois Farfel Stark

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